

WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8th December 2025 at 7pm.

Present (physically): Councillors Whiting (Chair for meeting), Bassinette, Richardson, Sutton and Watson. Also in attendance was C Cllr. Smith. Only Councillors physically present can speak (except during the public forum or if standing orders are temporarily suspended) and vote.

Also in attendance (via Zoom) were Cllrs. Dadswell and Lewis, and Mark Knight the Parish Clerk.

111/25-26 Welcome by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting. Cllr. Whiting chaired the meeting in her capacity of Vice-Chair due to the remote attendance of Cllr. Lewis.

112/25-26 To consider and approve any apologies for absence.

All were in attendance.

113/25-26 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation.

None.

114/25-26 Open Forum

None.

115/25-26 To consider the minutes of the meetings of 10th November 2025

The minutes of 10th November 2025 were **APPROVED** with the Chair to sign the minutes and to retain them until they can be handed to the Clerk in person.

116/25-26 To receive a report from Suffolk County Councillor Richard Smith

C Cllr. Smith reported that the Mayoral elections originally planned for May 2026 had been postponed by the Minister for Local Government at least until 2028. The reasons for this decision by Government had not been explained to SCC. The postponement would lead to confusion about the reporting relationship of the police and other local government arrangements that had been put in place to deal with what should have been new reporting lines. Local Government Reorganisation was meant to carry on but whether or not there would be County Council elections in 2026 as planned were now uncertain.

The Suffolk County Council budget would be considered on the 2nd January 2026 with the final draft being submitted to the Full Council on 12th February 2026. Spending increases were exclusively as a result of Adult and Children Social Care and SEND

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expenditures which has seen an 11% rise in the past year. If these mandates were not addressed at the national level, SCC along with most local councils, would most likely be in deficit within a year.

117/25-26 To receive a report from East Suffolk District Councillor David Beavan

D Cllr. Beavan was not in attendance.

118/25-26 Planning

118.1/25-26 To note responses made under delegated authority

**118.1.1 Proposed Temporary Campsite The Street Walberswick Suffolk IP18 6UD
DC/25/1755/P4BC**

It was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** to the application in the strongest possible terms. Specifically, objections were made concerning the East Suffolk Habitats Regulations Assessment and the likely significant effects this identified in the proposal. The physical mitigation measures proposed are inadequate. The proposal would also be contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework in relation to a number of issues concerning traffic movement, amenities of neighbours and landscape impact. Finally, the objection took into account the incomplete nature of the flood risk assessment.

119/25-26 Proposal to close the B1125 at the Water Tower Junction to address traffic and speed associated with the construction of SZC.

Cllr. Bassinette referred to the Report circulated that set out the designs and related proposals for the closure of the B1125 going north at the Water Tower junction and the improvements in the B1387 between the Water tower and the A12 which would become the sole route for reaching the A12 once the Blythburgh route was closed. This was made necessary by the construction of the Sizewell C Nuclear Plant and the associated traffic and access for workers to the area. Without the closure, the B1125 would become extraordinarily dangerous to cross coming in and out of Walberswick because of the number of additional vehicles and their speed.

Cllr. Bassinette clarified that whilst nothing will be able to mitigate for the profoundly negative impact SZC will have on Walberswick residents and visitors for the 10-15 year duration of construction, the scheme would help address some of the worst traffic and safety impacts that will be felt at the northern end of the B1125 and therefore deserves to be supported. Cllr Bassinette also explained that she would be working with other Councils on overall safety and speed on the B1125 particularly given concerns about the extension of this roadway south of the B1122 to connect to the Sizewell Link Road.

It was then **AGREED** to **SUPPORT** the proposal. The Councillors thanked Cllr Bassinette for all her work.

C Cllr. Smith then left the meeting at 7.34pm.

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120/25-26 To discuss the Local Government Reorganisation Consultation

Standing Orders were suspended at 7.34pm to allow Cllr. Lewis to speak.

Cllr. Lewis spoke about the ongoing consultation on Local Government Reorganisation (resulting in the creation of one or more unitary authorities) and how this was different, but interrelated, to the Mayoral devolution process which had very recently been postponed. It was reported that a recent SALC 'Super-Forum' attracted 91 members to discuss devolution, but a majority of the questions were about Local Government Reorganisation and whether there would be a single authority for all of Suffolk as recommended by SCC or 3 separate unitary authorities as proposed by the District Councils. Cllr Lewis reported that SALC had formally taken a neutral position on the consultation and a resolve to work with whatever the eventual structure turned out to be.

Councillors noted that central government would be taking the decision without reference to the recommendations of the current local authorities. Therefore, they could see no purpose in WPC taking a view as it would not influence Government's decision and would put the WPC potentially in an unfavourable position in relation to whatever form the unitary authority took in the future. It was then **AGREED** to make no comment on the consultation.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.44pm.

121/25-26 Finance Matters 2025/6

121/25-26.1 Review of Band D Change and Precept Request Form Submission

East Suffolk Council has confirmed that the tax base for Walberswick will be £529.26 for Band D equivalent properties in the coming year. This means that the Council's unchanged precept of £20,000 will result in a charge of £37.79 for a Band D property and that this charge will show as a 4.42% change on the 2026/7 Council Tax bill against the Parish element.

It was noted that this was a result in changes in the tax base, as opposed to a change in the precept and therefore out of WPC's hands. It was **AGREED** to **ACCEPT** the change and document and authorise the Parish Clerk to submit the completed form.

121/25-26.2 Approve items on the Authority to Pay Sheet

It was **AGREED** to pay all items on the sheet. Cllrs. Bassinette and Sutton were authorised to make the electronic payments.

122/25-26 Update on Commemorative Benches

Standing Orders were suspended at 7.49pm to allow for Cllr. Lewis to speak.

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Cllr. Lewis reported that the proposal to refurbish/replace three benches had been accepted by the Walberswick Common Lands Charity. As a result, the three benches would be installed, one by the pirate ship play equipment, one by the Sheep Gate and one in the top left hand corner of the common. Once the benches were installed, they would be allocated to the residents on the waiting list compiled by the Parish Clerk.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.51pm.

123/25-26 Oral updates from Councillors on areas of responsibility if relevant:

123/25-26.1 Village News

It was **AGREED** to place items concerning the B1125 closure and Lionlink in the next edition.

124/25-26 Oral Committee Reports if relevant

No reports were given. But it was **AGREED** that a Safety Committee meeting was needed as soon as possible to discuss the ROSPA reports.

125/25-26 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on emails and calls received over the past month.

126/25-26 Matters Arising

It was **AGREED** to place the item reseeding the Village Green on the January meeting agenda.

127/24-25 Date and Time of next meeting was confirmed as Monday 12th January 2026 at 7pm.

The time and date of the meeting was confirmed as above.

The meeting closed at 7.56pm.

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